

R E M A R K S

- Claims 1-22 were pending before the Office.
- Claims 1, 10, and 21 were the only independent claims.
- Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8 - 11, 13, 14, 17, 18, 21, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103.
- Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8 - 11, 13, 14, 17, 18, 21, and 22 have been canceled.
- Claims 3, 6, 7, 12, 15, 16, 19 and 20 were objected.
- Claims 3, 6, 7, 12, 15, 16, 19 and 20 have been amended.

A. CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8 - 11, 13, 14, 17, 18, 21, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,917,614 by *Laubach et al.* in view of U.S. Pub. No. 20050027852 by *Tilander et al.*

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8 - 11, 13, 14, 17, 18, 21, and 22 are canceled without prejudice.

B. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Office Action indicated that Claims 3, 6, 7, 12, 15, 16, 19 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form or amended to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response the method claims are amended as follows: Claim 3 is currently amended to include the limitation of claim 1. Claim 6 is currently amended to include the limitations of claim 1 and intervening claim 5. Claim 7 is

currently amended to include the limitations of claim 1 and intervening claim 5.

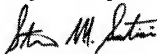
In addition, the apparatus claims are amended as follows: Claim 12 is currently amended to include the limitations of independent claim 10. Claim 15 is currently amended to include the limitations of independent claim 10 and intervening 14. Claim 19 is currently amended to include the limitations of independent claim 10. Claim 20 is not amended, but since it depends from currently amended claim 19, applicants assert that it is also allowable for at least the same reasons as currently amended claim 19.

Applicants assert that Claims 3, 6, 7, 12, 15, 16, 19 and 20 are allowable because they are rewritten in independent form or amended to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Consequently Applicants respectfully request that the objections to claims 3, 6, 7, 12, 15, 16, 19 and 20 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

C. CONCLUSION

Since Applicants assert that all the independent claims as amended are in condition for allowance and all remaining claims properly depend from the independent claims, Applicants assert that all claims are allowable. Applicants do not believe a Request for Extension of Time is required but if it is, please accept this paragraph as a Request for Extension of Time and authorization to charge the requisite extension fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1696. Applicants do not believe any additional fees are due regarding this Amendment. However, if any additional fees are required, please charge Deposit Account No. 04-1696.

Respectfully Submitted,



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